Claims

1. (Once Amended) A fluid heating tank comprising:

a fluid heating tank laying on its side and having an inlet located in an annular sidewall of said tank at a lower portion of said tank and an outlet located at an upper portion of said tank higher than said inlet; and

a baffle assembly positioned within said tank over said inlet, said baffle assembly comprising an inner cap positioned over said inlet including an inner cover having openings therein to control fluid flow into said tank, an outer cap positioned over said inner cap including an outer cover and having a flange depending from said outer cover, said inner cap and said outer cap defining a passage for deflecting fluid entering said tank downward and away from said outlet.

9. (Once Amended) The fluid heating tank of claim 4 wherein said outer cap is supported by brackets depending from said sidewall of said tank.

10. (Once Amended) A water heating booster for use with a commercial warewasher comprising:

a water heating tank having an inlet located at a lower portion of said tank and an outlet located at an upper portion of said tank above said inlet; and

a baffle assembly positioned within said tank over said inlet, said baffle assembly comprising a square-shaped inner cap positioned over said inlet including an inner cover having trapezoidal openings therein to control fluid flow into said tank, a square-shaped outer cap positioned over and spaced apart from said inner cap by a support post including an outer cover and having a flange depending from said outer cover to at least partially surround said inner cap, said inner cap and said outer cap defining a passage for diverting incoming water downward and away from said outlet.

11. (Once Amended) A method for improving the heating efficiency of a water heating booster for use with a commercial warewasher comprising the steps of:

selecting a fluid heating tank having an inlet located at a lower portion of said tank and an outlet located at an upper portion of said tank above said inlet;

positioning a baffle assembly over said inlet within said tank, said baffle assembly comprising an inner cap positioned over said inlet including an inner cover having openings therein to control fluid flow into said tank, an outer cap positioned over said inner cap including an outer cover and having a flange depending from said outer cover, said inner cap and said outer cap defining a passage for diverting incoming water downward and away from said outlet so that water entering said tank is slowed thereby minimizing turbulence in said tank and improving the heating efficiency therein.

12. (Once Amended) A fluid heating tank comprising:

a fluid heating tank laying on its side and having an inlet located in an annular sidewall of said tank at a lower portion of said tank and an outlet located at an upper portion of said tank above said inlet; and

a baffle assembly, said baffle assembly comprising an outer cap positioned over said inlet said outer cap including a water diverting flange depending downwardly therefrom for directing fluid flowing into the tank downward toward said annular sidewall and away from said tank outlet.